

# Middlebury



# Register.

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## Middlebury Register.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER, 10, 1886.

THE Democrats now claim that they will have a majority of fifteen in the next Congress.

THE laws of the last session of a public nature will be published in a supplement to this paper soon—probably next week.

THE "most available" candidate for the Republicans to place at the head of the national ticket in 1888 is Gresham. If some western journals are to be believed,

THE alleged wits of the newspaper press have long devoted their energies during the summer to questioning the veracity of fishermen. They might secure a winter job by applying the same process to owners of thermometers.

THE Colin-Campbell divorce case, wherein "my lord" and "my lady" seek to destroy each other's reputations—or what little there is left of them—is stirring up England, and the dirty details are telegraphed over here. It almost equals the Sexton-Mason performance at Burlington.

REV. FATHER BOYLAN, who died, in the 56th year of his age, at Rutland, the other day, was a typical Irish priest such as one seldom sees outside the covers of Lever's novels. A strong man physically and mentally, he went to Rutland when it had just begun to grow, and did a noble work in training up and guiding in the way they should go the somewhat turbulent element that for years made up a large part of the town's population. He was an ardent temperance advocate, and many a dance where liquor flowed too freely has been broken up by him and his stout cane.

**AN ARGUMENT FOR SMALL COLLEGES.** Writing on the subject, "How I Was Educated," for the Forum, President Dwight, who is at the head of one of the greatest colleges in the country, makes, perhaps unintentionally, a very strong plea for the small college when he says:

The movement since my college life has not been without any mistakes, and the perfect methods are, no doubt, in the future. But I cannot help feeling, in view of my own college course, and of all that I have seen since then that the great defect of the past and present education lies in the want of personal and individual intercourse between the teacher and his pupil—immediate contact of the mind of the former with the mind of the latter—in such a degree as is to be desired for the pupil's highest inspiration. Our system of education, which has been growing in popularity of late in our higher institutions of learning, places the student far too much in a kind of great machine, where his individuality is lost in the working of the machinery. It is the mind and the man which we need to develop, and to this end something more than text-books and examinations are necessary.

**THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE TARIFF.** It will be noted that Mr. Cleveland in his message takes very mild ground on the tariff. He simply advises a reduction of the revenue in such manner as not to bear harshly upon any industry or upon the laboring classes. But his remarks are more in the line of glittering generalities than of specific recommendations. Secretary of the Treasury Manning, however, thinks he sees a way out of the difficulty, and his utterances may therefore be taken as voicing the opinion of the administration, in so far as it has any opinion, on proper tariff legislation. Mr. Manning's scheme is the old one of abolishing duties on raw materials. He says:

Taxes on imports are levied by all nations. Last year England raised a revenue of \$65,978,533 from taxes on imports; France, \$68,616,325; Germany, \$47,557,160. But no foreign nation taxes raw materials. Such taxes injure home industries, in which those materials are worked up and increased in value by home labor. "Protection" is also a misnomer. It implies superiority elsewhere. That superiority over any great industry

of ours does not exist upon the face of the globe. It implies infants here and adults elsewhere. Such is not our reputation. It implies that amid competition universal, where the fittest survive, we shall perish. But it is everywhere else believed that whenever we shall release ourselves from bad laws and enter that competition unmolested, rivals will be distanced, and our primacy established in the markets and commerce of the world. Such is also my own belief, making allowance for those misleading forms of speech which we seem obliged to use, but which state industrial intercourse in terms of strife. It is a mistake to conceive it so. In warlike encounters one may gain what another loses, but on the whole, in industrial intercourse, every desired exchange is profitable to both parties, and this relation of things exhibits the nature of property and is a cornerstone of society.

The secretary of the treasury is a plausible reasoner and his statement of the case is calculated to capture the crowd. But it is exceedingly doubtful whether he can make Congress take his view. Well-informed Washington correspondents say there will be no tariff legislation whatever this session.

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The message which President Cleveland sent to Congress on its reassembling, Monday, is a long, dry document, made up mainly of a recital of the condition of national affairs. In opening, Mr. Cleveland reviews our foreign relations, which he considers in the main satisfactory, except with Mexico and England. The former's position with regard to jurisdiction over offences committed without its borders, as in the Cutting case, he considers untenable and likely to lead to trouble if maintained. The fisheries difficulty is discussed at length; and he informs Congress that negotiations looking to a settlement are pending, and that the correspondence may be made public before long. The promulgation of an extradition treaty with Japan is noted and he suggests "that our statutes regulating extradition might be advantageously amended by a provision for the transit across our territory, now a convenient thoroughfare of travel from one foreign country to another, of fugitives surrendered by a foreign government to a third state." Coming to home affairs he says:

The report of the secretary of the treasury exhibits in detail the condition of the public finances and of the several branches of the government related to his department. I especially direct the attention of Congress to the recommendations in this and the last preceding report of the secretary, touching the simplification and amendment of the laws relating to the collection of our revenues; and, in the interest of economy and justice to the government, I hope they may be adopted by appropriate legislation.

The ordinary receipts of the government for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1886, were \$336,439,727.06. Of this amount \$192,905,923.11 was received from customs, and \$116,505,936.48 from internal revenue. The total receipts as here stated were \$13,749,020.08 greater than for the previous year, but the increase of customs was \$11,634,084.10, and from internal revenue \$4,407,210.94, making gain in these items, for the last year, of \$15,811,295.04, a falling off in other resources reducing the total increase to the smaller amount mentioned.

The expense, at the different custom houses, of collecting this increased customs revenue was less than the expenses attending the collection of such revenue for the preceding year by \$490,608,

and the increased receipts of internal revenue were collected at a cost to the internal revenue bureau of \$15,944.39

less than the expense of such collection for the previous year.

The total ordinary expenses of the government for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1886, were \$242,483,138.50, being less by \$17,788,797 than such expenditures for the year preceding and leaving a surplus in the treasury at the close of the last fiscal year of \$83,956,588.56, as against \$63,463,771.27 at the close of the previous year, being an increase in such surplus of \$20,492,817.29.

For the current year to the end of June 30, 1887, the ascertained receipts up to October 1, 1886, with such receipts estimated for the remainder of the year, amount to \$356,000,000. The expenditures ascertained and estimated for the same period are \$266,000,000, indicating an anticipated surplus at the close of the year of \$90,000,000.

He repeats the recommendation of his former message, that legislation is required to diminish the revenue, and continues: "The application of the surplus to the payment of such portion of the public debt as is now at our option, subject to extinguishment, if continued at the rate which has lately prevailed, would retire that class of indebtedness within less than one year from this date. Thus a continuation of our present revenue system would result in the receipt of an annual income much greater than necessary to meet the government expenses, with no indebtedness upon which it could be applied. We should then be confronted with a vast quantity of money, the circulating medium of the people hoarded in the treasury when it should be in their hands, or we should be drawn into wasteful public extravagance with all the corrupting national demoralization which follows in its train." But he regards the surplus as not only useless and dangerous, but also as an unnecessary burden upon the people. He says:

It has been the policy of the government to collect the principal part of its revenues by a tax upon imports; and no change in this policy is desirable. But the present condition of affairs constrains

our people to demand that, by a revision of our revenue laws, the receipts of the government shall be reduced to the necessary expense of its economical administration; and this demand should be recognized and obeyed by the people's representatives in the legislative branch of the government. In readjusting the burdens of federal taxation, a sound public policy requires that such of our citizens as have built up large and important industries under present conditions should not be suddenly and to their injury deprived of advantages to which they have adapted their business; but if the public good requires it, they should be content with such consideration as shall deal fairly and cautiously with their interests, while the just demand of the people for relief from needless taxation is honestly answered. A reasonable and timely submission to such a demand should certainly be possible without disastrous shock to any interest, and a cheerful concession sometimes averts abrupt, heedless action, often the outgrowth of impatience and delayed justice. Due regard should be also accorded, in any proposed readjustment, to the interests of American labor, so far as they are involved, . . . I recommend that, keeping in view all these considerations, the increasing and unnecessary surplus of national income annually accumulating be released to the people by an amendment to our revenue laws, which shall cheapen the price of the necessities of life and give freer entrance to such imported materials as by American labor may be manufactured into marketable commodities. Nothing can be accomplished, however, in the direction of this much-needed reform, unless the subject is approached in a patriotic spirit of devotion to the interest of the entire country, and with a willingness to yield something for the public good.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1886, the public debt was reduced \$445,551,643.36. During the year ended on the same date 29,838,605 silver dollars were coined; the total coinage of these dollars to December 1, 1886, was \$247,131,549. In 1878 the intrinsic value of these dollars was 94.4 cents each; now it is 76 cents. On the 27th of November the people held of these dollars, or certificates representing them, \$166,753,941, and there were almost eighty millions of them in the vaults of the treasury. The President, therefore, recommends that the coinage of silver dollars be discontinued.

He refers to the defenceless condition of our coasts and says: "The absolute necessity, judged by all standards of prudence and foresight, of our preparation for an effectual resistance against the armored ships and steel guns and mortars of modern construction which may threaten the cities on our coast is so apparent that I hope effective steps will be taken in that direction immediately."

Speaking of the navy, he rehearses what has often been said of the worthlessness of the ships which compose it. The affairs of the post office department show marked improvement. The President believes that before very long the present rate of postage will be sufficient to make the department self-supporting.

The remainder of the message is occupied with the department reports, and contains little of general interest. In closing Mr. Cleveland discourses at some length on civil-service reform, saying, among other things:

Our civil-service reform may be imperfect in some of its details; it may be misunderstood and opposed; it may not always be faithfully applied; its designs may sometimes miscarry, through mistake or wilful intent; if may sometimes tremble under the assaults of its enemies, and languish under the misguided zeal of impracticable friends. But if the people of this country ever submit to the banishment of its underlying principle from the operation of their government, they will abandon the surest guarantee of the safety and success of American institutions. I invite for the reform the cheerful and ungrudging support of Congress.

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WHY IT WAS VETOED.

Late in the recent session of the legislature Gov. Ormsbee vetoed the bill for temperance instruction in schools; and, as his reasons seem not to be well understood, it is worth while to state them. Section 3 of the vetoed act read:

It shall be the duty of the proper officers in control of any school described in section one of this act to enforce the provisions of this statute; and any teacher who shall neglect or refuse to comply with the requirements of this act shall be discharged and the vacancy filled as in other cases; and any such officer, school committee or superintendent who shall neglect or fail to make proper provisions for the instruction required and in the manner specified by the first and second sections of this act, for all pupils in each and every grade of all schools under his or her jurisdiction, may be cited before any judge of the Supreme court upon complaint of any voter in such town, and upon hearing, such judge shall make such order in the premises as will secure a full compliance with the provisions of this act, and may punish any disobedience of such order as in cases of contempt.

In his veto message Gov. Ormsbee, referring to this passage, said:

This section contemplates a summary hearing by a judge without ordinary process and apparently without jurisdiction. A party alleged to have violated a statute is entitled to a jury trial, which this act denies him. There is no provision for any record of the process, the pleadings or the proceedings;—there is no clerk of the court provided, but the judge is to decide the matter off-hand, construe the law according to his best judgment, without revision or right of appeal, and

is to punish disobedience of his own order as in cases of contempt.

In a proceeding of contempt there is no limit upon the amount of fine or the extent of imprisonment which a judge may impose. Proper cases for the exercise of this power are rare, and it does not naturally or properly apply to the enforcement of statutes. Such a method of administering justice might perhaps be efficient in respect to all our laws; it would apparently be as proper in respect to other statutes as to this, but it would be decidedly novel in form and rather in accordance with oriental methods than with the principles of constitutional government.

These considerations are of special weight in view of the fact that the first and second sections are certainly susceptible of construction which would require the pupils of primary classes to be provided with text-books before they have mastered the alphabet, and that these text-books should be kept in their hands and in daily use year after year in every grade of the school system.

As I have before said, the object of the bill is highly commendable, but I believe it is encumbered by a provision that is unconstitutional and which is certainly a violation of well-recognized principles which lie at the foundation of our government.

I can but conclude that the bill, as to the features and provisions to which your attention is hereby called, passed without a full understanding of them.

The veto was sustained by a large vote, but the friends of the measure drew up another without the features to which the governor demurred and it is now a law. Gov. Ormsbee's action was wise and deserves the commendation of all who wish prosperity to the temperance cause. Even a good object is not furthered by unwise means.

THE BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Vermont Bee-keepers' association will be held at Burlington, January 13 and 14, 1887.

ADDITION COUNTY COURT.

The December term of the county court opens on Tuesday next with Judge R. S. Taft of Burlington presiding. In the list of petit-jurors printed last week the name Norman W. Foot in the Cornwall jurors should have been Norman W. Frost.

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION.

The new board of railroad commissioners, composed of ex-Gov. Pingree, T. C. Fletcher of St. Johnsbury and Hon. H. L. Clark of Castleton, met at Montpelier, the other day, and chose Alfred E. Watson of Hartford, who was Mr. Pingree's secretary of civil and military affairs, clerk. The board is to meet monthly at Montpelier.

G. A. R. ELECTION.

Russell Post, No. 89, G. A. R., of this village held its annual election of officers on Wednesday evening. These were chosen: Commander, C. H. Williamson; S. V. C., J. H. Sargent; J. V. C., E. A. Barney; Q. M., G. W. Pinney; surgeon, E. P. Russell; chaplain, W. W. Martin; O. D. Wm. L. Cady; O. G., J. T. Williamson.

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